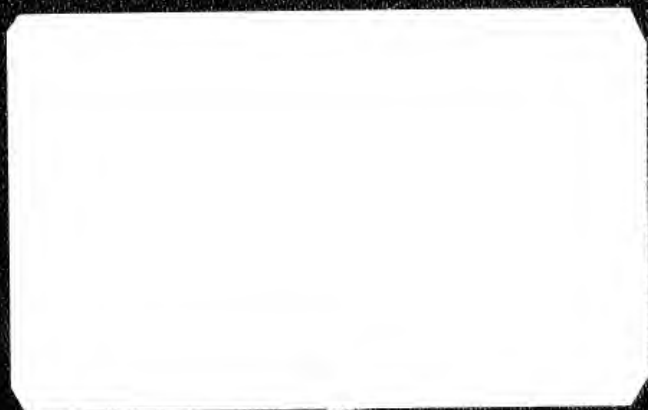


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THE CAMPAIGN ISSUES.

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SPEECH OF

HON. GEO. S. FISHER,

At Augusta, Georgia. July 4, 1872.

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THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN PARTY THE HOPE OF THE NATION.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Citizens:

A meeting like this, on this auspicious day—this great Republic's National Birthday—the anniversary of American Independence—ought to be a success, and happily it is one. Yet, I confess my own preference would have been to have delivered to you and all our people an oration instead of a party speech. For alas! this glorious day has too few to pay it that reverence and honor all our fathers used to do without distinction of party, sectionality, or reservation of attention.

To my fellow-citizens, it is not an offense, nor objectionable in justice, that on this anniversary a loyal, Union-loving party should assemble and clearly avow to the voters of this country the principles by which we profess to be governed—the principles of the great Republican party of this nation—the policy and platform of our candidates, and the justice of our cause as politicians, asking the co-operation and suffrages of all our people.

our standard program.

Not to be taken apart with the highest patriotism and devotion to duty—the honor of the nation as we bear aloft inscribed on

the flag of our beloved country, in letters of gold, or living light, the names of Ulysses S. Grant for President and of Henry Wilson for Vice President in the political campaign upon which we now enter. [Great applause.]

The nomination of these distinguished citizens by the great Convention at Philadelphia was an ovation of itself never before witnessed in any National Convention—Republican, Whig, or Democratic—in our country; and was such a spontaneous and enthusiastic tribute to them as men, and the place they respectively hold in the affections of the masses of the people, as no man had ever before witnessed in any country or by any people. Certainly no Liberal Republican, or Democrat, had ever dreamed of such unanimity, such enthusiasm, such an assemblage on earth, and surely there never was one like it before in this or any other country. Not a discordant element, not a technical question or a dilatory motion, not an opposition vote, but one noble, solid, invincible phalanx of the people's harmonious chamber-lab'ers shouting forth in thunder like tones the people's free choice—recorded State after State by ballot unanimously

for the great soldier and statesman whom the nation delights to honor, and who will with firmness, justice, moderation, and safety hold the helm of State for the next four years. [Cheers.]

And it was most just and grand that such a convention, fresh from the people of this great land, should select as standard-bearers in this political campaign we are fairly launched upon these great names for the suffrage of this nation. They are men who give no uncertain sound. They are read and known of all men. And that they combine all the true elements of American character—of self-made, self-reliant, great men—no just man can successfully deny. And it is no exaggeration nor exorbitant praise to say that few men of any age or country, in ancient or modern times, have inscribed their names so high on the scroll of fame as great chieftains and civilians, as have Grant and Wilson by their own acts and deeds. [Loud cheers.] Neither of them were born to greatness, but greatness has been achieved by them. And such greatness how few attain?

GRANT AS A GENERAL.

No common mind, no common man, could so conspicuously have written his name on the roll of honor as General Grant has done. Surely no man without brains, with only ordinary or common understanding and comprehension of men, without knowledge of himself in this 19th century, in this age of wonderful activity and almost miraculous progress, this age of intelligence and unexampled competition, without capacity of intellect, power of combination, sagacity, discrimination, and a comprehensive knowledge of men and things, time and events, could have accomplished what historical facts show that he has done. I confess I can conceive that a man may blunder into a good thing—may be lucky at times—may influence men by eloquence, by flattery, by money even to a certain extent—but no man ever yet moved battalions, brigades, divisions, large armies of men, commanded and moved hundreds of thousands of men, like a great and unerring machine through long and terrible wars,

then by spontaneous and electrical enthusiasm awoke a nation's gratitude to elevate him to its Chief Magistracy, and again unanimously renominate him for the same position without capacity equal to that of the highest, noblest, and purest of earth's great dead or living. [Great applause.] In vain we search Grecian, Roman, Gallic, Anglican, every historic page for his equal or parallel, (for few men indeed in all the world's history have ever been able to move or command even a half million of men,) and yet many able, conscientious, truth-loving men either do not comprehend or prefer not to admit this fact. I am no man-worshiper, but where shall we find another who never met with defeat, so far, in the field or Cabinet? [That's so, and cheers.]

GRANT AS A STATESMAN.

As a statesman, some of his opponents say he has failed, but they fail to show wherein. And, without personality, or the slightest disposition or desire to awaken animosities, or carry thought back to strife, I may be pardoned for asking these men was it in his correspondence with Pemberton? Was it with Lee at Appomattox? Was it with Johnston? I do not mean Andy. Johnston? I mean the greater, Joseph E. Johnston? Was it while he was Secretary of War, when President Johnson bore testimony that "he (Grant) had saved the Treasury, during his short service, three millions of dollars?" Was it when he said "Let us have peace?" Was it in any of his messages to Congress, by all who have read them, acknowledged to be State papers unsurpassed for clearness, statesmanship, and directness of expression? Was it in the negotiations of the Washington treaty? And has it been shown in the economy of his administration? In the management of the finances of the nation and in the reduction of the public debt? In the reduction and collection and disbursement of the revenues? And in the management of the Indian affairs of the Government, originally organized, and carried out by himself? Again, no common man holds the helm of State, the helm of this great Government, and in the management of the war.

60. 5. 22. 77. accomplishing so quietly, so unostentatiously, so vigorously, without being in the possession of character, ability, and mental power that the world as yet knows little of. [Cheers.]

But our Democratic friends say he is a MILITARY PRESIDENT, and will yet make himself dictator! and they cite as authority for their night-mare apprehension:

1st. That he is surrounded by a military family guarding the White House.

2d. That he wishes to control elections and enforce his re-election by the bayonet: and

3d. That he favors Ku-Klux laws and the unlimited suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

Now, in reply to the *first* complaint, his being a military man, that is granted, for he has proven that by his deeds. But that he has surrounded the White House with a military guard, is entirely untrue—not a soldier, nor epaulette, nor shoulder-strap of any kind is to be seen within its walls nor anywhere upon the premises. But if Grant is a military President, so was Washington, Jackson, Harrison, Taylor, and the same objections were as bitterly made against them, and with what effect history will tell and some of us personally remember.

In regard to his making himself a dictator, and perpetuating a dynasty in his family, I have no doubt he will do so in the same way exactly as Washington's and Jackson's political enemies said they would, but did not. The persons who affect to believe such trash as this better bear in mind "the great cry and little wool" the man had who shaved the hog! [Laughter.] And, further, it is true there is not to day one whole company of United States troops stationed at Washington, the capital of this great country, nor does the President wish one. Nor had this Government ever a more modest, unassuming, unpretentious President—one less given to display and ostentation than General Grant. He is as far free from making military display as if he had never drawn a sword in his life. [Applause.]

In the *second* place, it is charged that he wishes to use the army to control elections

and enforce his re-election at the polls in November.

Such a charge as this must either be true or preposterously false; and surely no evidence of the first proposition can be produced. I believe that General Grant never thought even of such a thing. And that a President of the United States, with its entire army constantly on duty to garrison and protect its thousands of miles of frontier and further thousands of miles of sea coast defenses—its forts, fortifications, barracks, depots, arsenals—to perform its escort and transportation business—to protect its Indian affairs and prosecute its Indian wars—to guard its continental railroads and mails, with its whole effective force less than 60,000 officers, artificers, and men, including all arms—should attempt in addition to add this duty to subvert their Government and enforce by bayonets his re-election to the Presidency, is too ridiculous to discuss. I dismiss such a charge as not only utterly preposterous, but idle and contemptible—because no President could even hope for success in so fool-hardy an undertaking—certainly not while free men are worthy to be free. No President can ever live and do such a thing—never! *Thirdly*, in relation to his favoring the KU-KLUX LEGISLATION AND THE SUSPENSION OF THE WRIT OF *habeas corpus*.

In answer to that, it is well known that General Grant did not originate one of these laws. As the Executive of the nation he must carry them into effect as passed by Congress, but farther than this he has never taken one initiatory step. On the contrary, he has even opposed them, and as long ago as 1867 he wrote the Secretary of War touching this very question, as follows:

"The necessity for governing any portion of our territory by martial law is to be deplored. If resorted to, it should be limited in its authority, and should leave all local authorities and civil tribunals free and unobstructed, until they prove their inefficiency or unwillingness to perform their duties."

And when called before the committee of Congress to give his testimony in regard to the war, condition of the South, and especially in reference to the controversy at Phil-

more, between Gov. Swann and the Police Commissioners, he said :

"I understood that Gov. Swann wanted to use the military power of the Government, and I called his (President Johnson's) attention to the law on the subject, which changed his views and determination evidently. I called his (Johnson's) attention to the only circumstance in which the military force of the United States can be called out to interfere in State matters. It was his intention to send United States troops through Baltimore to enable Gov. Swann, as he termed it, to enforce his decision in the case of those Police Commissioners."

And again he said :

"I was sent for several times—twice, I think—while Gov. Swann was then in consultation with the President. Finding that the President wanted to send the military to Baltimore, I objected to it." [Cries of good; hear! hear!]

And it was not finally done until General Grant had communicated with the Secretary of War, and through him drawn an opinion from the Attorney General against the constitutionality and legality of sending troops to Baltimore, that President Johnson acquiesced in General Grant's views.

And every act, and expression, and message of President Grant touching these matters will conclusively show his opposition to martial law, to the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, and to the Ku-Klux laws in States unless as a *dernier resort*; because of the non-execution of statute laws by State and county courts, and their failure to protect the life, liberty, and property of persons. On this point his record is unequivocal, and no man, be he lawyer, politician, or partisan, can truthfully gainsay this fact, and the proofs on this point could be multiplied almost *ad infinitum*. [Cheers.]

And now for the other side of this picture—but before we proceed on this line (one of Grant's lines we are going to fight on all summer) [applause] permit me to introduce here the opponent and Democratic adopted nominee—"anything to beat Grant!" Do not be startled. Let no man be afraid. It is not an apparition, a myth, no ghoul that I am going to bring forth by "tricks that are vain," nor jugglery. The opponent of Grant is no less a man than one

who is to swallow the whole Baltimore Democratic Convention, or be swallowed by it! Of course there is but one man in the United States who can perform that feat, and he could not if he had not all the valuable philosophy of the New York Times; [laughter] and the ins and outs,isms, and white coats, that Horace Greeley also wears. [Cheers.] And this man who, in 1868, at a dinner in Montreal, said :

"Mr. Webster was not only a gentleman but he had the elements of moral greatness and he had faults as well. He failed only in one respect, and in this respect I differ from him—he wanted to be President and I don't. [Sensation.] We have also seen our greatest man, Mr. Chase, making the same blunder. I have seen men who had the disease early and died of it at a very early age. [Laughter.] General Lewis Cass died about 82, and up to the day of his death, wanted to be President. No one ever escapes who catches the disease, he lives and dies in the delusion; and being a reader and an observer at an early age, I saw how it poisoned and paralyzed the very best of our public men, and I have carefully avoided it." [Laughter.]

We hope he will be disposed of at Baltimore, for it is certain if the Democratic party are so hungry for office, so famished for the spoils of victory as to sacrifice all their life-long professions—their most solemn asseverations of years for a few offices and for success in the Presidential race by taking up for the head of their party, for their chief and spokesman, their leader and guide, the chiefest Radical of Radicals, their life-long opponent, scourge even—then the great Republican party will be content. No man will be more easily beaten as time will clearly bear witness; but on this point I will ask your attention to Greeley on Greeley in a speech that he made in Trumbull county, Ohio, in October, 1871 :

"If the Democratic party were called upon to decide between Grant and myself, I know that their regard for what they must call principle would induce nine-tenths of them to vote against me. Why? I am a decided enemy of that party, even in its most respectable aspects." [Applause.]

On another occasion, also in a public speech, he said :

"We are led by him who first taught our armies to conquer in the West, and subse-

quently in the East also. Richmond would not come to us until we sent Grant after it, and then it had to come. [Cheers.] *He has never yet been defeated, and never will be.* He will be as great and successful on the field of politics as on that of arms. [Prolonged applause.]

Again, on the 5th of January, 1871, Mr. Greeley said:

"As to the Administration of General Grant, I recognize no one as a Republican who is not grateful for its judicious, energetic, and successful efforts to procure the ratification of the fifteenth amendment, that key-stone of our political arch, whereby the fruits of our great triumph over rebellion and slavery are assured and perpetuated. That the President has made some mistakes in appointments is obvious. It would be strange, indeed, if one so inexperienced in the conduct of political affairs, had wholly escaped them. While asserting the right of every Republican to his untrammelled choice of a candidate for next President until a nomination is made, I venture to suggest that General Grant will be far better qualified for that momentous trust in 1872 than he was in 1868."

WHAT HORACE THOUGHT OF GREELEY.

And in the year 1866, HORACE WHITE, Mr. GREELEY's greatest friend in the West, an able man, but certainly a changeable one, for he is now for GREELEY, co-operating with him with all his powers. Mr. WHITE then said:

"Horace Greeley is not now, and never has been, a man who ought to be trusted with an official position requiring practical wisdom, ordinary statesmanship, or firm, consistent action. For twenty-five years he has been a marplot in council, an unreliable commander in action, a misanthrope in victory, and a riotous disorganizer in defeat. He has always been fanatical in his demands for the extremest measures, and when the party has reached the eve of triumph, invariably thrusts himself forward as a negotiator of terms of surrender to the enemy. His course during the war was but a repetition of his course in politics. In 1861, he was an open defender of secession; he changed to a vigorous champion of the war, and thereafter was forever recklessly making proposals for peace and as recklessly withdrawing them—making war in spite of Mars, and negotiating in spite of Minerva.

"For twenty years he has been an uncompromising advocate for a square fight with the pro-slavery party, and when that kind of a fight was forced upon the Republicans in 1860, he was here in Chicago, voting not

for Lincoln, nor for Chase, but for old Edward Bates, of Missouri, one of the fossils of the slave party. He was then the intimate and co-laborer of that other impracticable and unreliable squad—the Blair family. The country at this time wants no inspired harlequins in the national councils. Still less does it want men with statesmanship so microscopic that they can see nothing in public business but the mileage and per diem of their fellow-members. If Mr. Greeley is not satisfied with his position as a journalist—a position which ought to be equal in point of influence, power, and dignity to that of six average Senators—and if the Republicans of New York want to do something for him let them make him State Prison Inspector, or even Governor; anything that will not make the outside of the State responsible for his follies." [Laughter, and cries of good.]

In addition to these, I could multiply the letters, speeches, and testimonials of nearly every public man, distinguished Liberal Republicans who attended the Cincinnati Convention, including its presiding officer, Judge STANLEY MATTHEWS, against its nomination, but will only now read you the following from Mr. BRYANT's *New York Evening Post*:

"Should Horace Greeley ever be the President of the United States we firmly believe that the corruption and the crime of an Administration with a man at its head so weak in principle as he, so infirm of purpose as he, so imbecile of character as he, so surrounded by such a crowd of adventurers, and cormorants, and knaves as would surround him—that the corruption and the crime of such an Administration would reach proportions that would put their perpetrators beyond the cognizance of ordinary courts of law, and that would call for and compel other correction than ordinary penalties can afford. Where the rebellious element and the corrupt element of the country are combined to gain possession of the Government, and on a false pretense, we may prepare ourselves for any calamity that the course of human events can possibly befall any people in their political relations with each other and the world." [Cries that's so, and good.]

In addition to this, Mr. GREELEY was the fiercest of the fierce in advocacy of all the Ku-Klux legislation, and the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

WHAT COL. MOSEY THINKS OF GREELEY.

Says Col. MOSEY, of Virginia:

"Will the partisans of Greeley point to one act that was odious to us that he has not

passed and approved? Nay, more. The original acts of Congressional legislation were an expression of a Northern sentiment of hostility to the South for which Horace Greeley, more than any other man, is responsible. General Grant has been the instrument of executing many laws obnoxious to us, which were enacted under the pressure of a public opinion, created by Greeley, which no man could resist."

Now does Mr. Greeley say in his letter of acceptance of the nomination of the Cincinnati Convention, these laws ought to be repealed—nor that he is opposed to such legislation. How well do we all remember, too, how he advocated and demanded President Johnson's impeachment with all the ferocity of his changeable and impetuous nature, and when he was acquitted charged every one of the then Republican Senators, who voted to acquit him, with corrupt and dishonest motives, and that some of them had received bribes for their votes.

GREELEY ON THE ELECTION LAWS.

He has urged, also, over and over again, with all the vehemence in his power, in the press and by public speech, the very election laws which it is pretended he now disclaims. What hollow-heartedness this is, will appear more clearly when we turn to his own acts in connection with this law. The original law only applied to cities of 20,000 inhabitants in the South, but after the New York election, two years ago, Mr. Greeley, again and again, through the columns of the *Tribune*, urged its being amended and made applicable for every election precinct in that State! And this man is now deemed worthy of Democratic sympathy and support. Well! we shall see! [Applause.]

GENERAL GRANT INDICATED.

He next charged that General Grant is responsible for the reconstruction and disfranchisement laws.

To this declaration I reply unhesitatingly and defy a successful rejoinder to my avowal that at no time, from the first inception of the correspondence of Grant, previous to the surrender and the paving the way thereto of General Lee and his brave army at Appomattox, did Grant ever favor by

recommendation any laws in this connection not originated and passed by Congress. And that he was from principle and as a soldier opposed to them, his whole course shows. And his subsequent acts, as well as his messages, prove it. But as President he was compelled to execute the laws of Congress. His oath of office (not taken in vain) being obligatory, and unless he executed the laws he would be liable to impeachment. Grant's last annual message contains the following:

"It may well be considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, and only imposes the disability to hold office upon certain classes. When the parity of the ballot is secure, majorities are sure to elect officers reflecting the views of the majority. *I do not see the objection, merely because they were, before the rebellion, of standing out character, sufficient to be deemed to positions requiring them to take oaths to support the Constitution, and admitting to eligibility those entertaining precisely the same views, but of less standing in their communities.* It may be said that the former violated an oath, while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken the oath it cannot be doubted that they would have broken it as did the former class. If there are any great criminals distinguished above all others for the part they took in opposition to the Government, the might of the judgment of Congress be excluded from such an amnesty. This subject is recommended to your careful consideration. The condition of the Southern States is, unhappily, not such as all true patriotic citizens would like to see. Racial ostracism, for official acts, personal violence, or threats to such persons entertaining political views opposed to those entertained by the majority of the old citizens, prevents immigration and the flow of much needed capital into the States lately in rebellion. It will be a happy condition of the country when the old citizens of these States will take an interest in public affairs, promote it as honestly enter annual vote for men representing their views, and tolerate the same freedom of expression and of the ballot in those outwining different political convictions."

Now why, under the heavens, must our land be more responsible for the passage of the Ku-Klux, reconstruction laws, and suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* than

HORACE GREELEY, [cries of that's so;] nor will the Cincinnati and Baltimore nominations ever save him from this responsibility, whether people condemn them or not. [Cheers.]

HON. B. H. HILL'S MISSTATEMENT REFUTED.

And here I wish to call your especial attention to some statements of Mr. B. H. Hill in this connection, made in a recent speech at Atlanta. He said:

"Mr. Greeley has said and done many things which I need not tell you I do not approve—you do not approve—but Mr. Greeley has always been in favor of one policy which relieves me of the most vital objection to his support. He never has at any time approved of those features of the reconstruction policy which disfranchised the virtue and intelligence of the South and enfranchised the ignorance and vice of the South. He has stood up like a man from the beginning and protested against every one of these odious features of the reconstruction policy."

In opposition to this unwarrantable and marvelous assertion, I recall your attention to the speech of Hon. Daniel H. Voorhees, of Indiana, and the letters of Col. Mosby, Col. Benj. S. Ewell, John H. Gilmer, Hon. James H. Lyons, ex-Gov. Wickliffe, Gen. Longstreet, and scores of others who might be quoted, besides the whole record of Greeley's life, as published in the columns of the *New York Tribune*, in contradiction of this statement. Surely no one man in the United States has written and published such persistent and unequivocal articles in favor of reconstruction, Ku-Klux laws, and disfranchisement as HORACE GREELEY, and I confess my amazement at reading the above unblushing paragraph from any man who has ever, for one moment even, been in public life. I now ask honest men of all parties and all colors to listen to this language of this suddenly became immaculate Democratic candidate for President of the United States. [Laughter.]

"When the rebellious traitors are overwhelmed in the field, and scattered like leaves before an angry wind, it must not be to return to peaceful and contented homes. They must find poverty at their fireplaces, and see privation in the anxious eyes of mothers, and in the rags of children."—Horace Greeley.

Comment on this utterance is unnecessary by any living soul. Thank God the dead hear it not. And again he said:

"I therefore, on every occasion, advocated and justified the Ku-Klux act. I hold it especially desirable for the South; and if it does not prove strong enough to effect its purpose, I hope it will be made stronger and stronger." [Oh, and sensation.]

And on the 21st April, 1871, after the Ku-Klux bill had passed Congress, the *New York Tribune*—i. e. Horace Greeley—said this:

"It is a great point gained that there has been legislation of any character upon this question. The lawlessness at the South has been greatly fostered by the heretofore seeming indifference of Congress and the North to the outrages committed upon loyal citizens. Legislation, however imperfect, was calculated to restore the confidence of the friends of the Union and to warn its enemies. The bill, now become a law, should be enforced with such power and firmness as to intimidate those who seek to regain political power by outrage and crime, and to protect fully all friends of order and peace, irrespectively of party or of political considerations. The Democrats in Congress have fought the Ku-Klux bill as a party measure directed against their adherents in the South. The Republican Administration will enforce it as a measure of peace to the country and security to all its citizens."

In this connection I wish to place on the record right here one other testimonial—from the *New York Tablet* of last month—its matured opinion as well as political (always Democratic in sympathy) views of the fitness of Mr. Greeley for President, viz:

"Mr. Greeley has shown alike his want of statesmanship and of principle in his readiness to seize upon every popular excitement, every radical movement, every popular insurrection, or projected reform at home and abroad, as a means of securing popularity for himself or of his party. In a word he is a professed philanthropist, and philanthropy has been well defined, 'The love of all men in general, and the hatred of every man in particular,' unless, perchance, he has a black skin or a black character. All your philanthropic movements of the day trample down more good by the way than could possibly be gained by success in their schemes. Few men have exerted a more disastrous political and moral influence on the country during the last thirty years than this same Horace Greeley, and nothing could more seriously disgrace the American

people than to elevate him to the Chief Magistracy of the nation." [Uprarious applause.]

WHAT CHARLES A. DANA THOUGHT OF GENERAL GRANT.

And further, what Charles A. Dana, the editor of the New York *Sun*, now active supporter of Greeley and abuser of Grant, thought of Gen. Grant, until the President thought there were better men to fill the custom-house appointments in New York than Mr. Dana. [Laughter.]

"The personal qualities of Ulysses S. Grant, like his historical achievements, are such as to attract and justify the confidence of the loyal people of the whole country. His modesty, his disinterestedness, his magnanimity, his bravery, and his patriotism may well be held up as models for emulation. His fidelity to duty, and his firmness in trial and in danger, prove that the Republic will be in safe hands while his masterly common sense and unerring judgment in selecting the right men for important trusts, afford the best reasons for our belief that his administration will be no less remarkable for the wisdom of its measures than for the elevation of its motives."

HILL PRAISING GREELEY.

But to return to Mr. Hill, who must think the people of this country only Rip Van Winkles, oblivious to facts, current events of the day, and the active history of the times, I beg to call your attention to what he tells the Democrats of Georgia, who must have been asleep longer than Washington Irving's Rip could have been, when he says:

"He (Horace Greeley) has never been what is called a partisan, and an independent thinker, I think, has the greatest honesty."

Well! well! The last part of this sentence must have been to qualify the first part, or to let it down easy! [Laughter.]

It is possible, however, that the Democracy of this State may swallow the assertion that H. G. "has never been a partisan," but I venture to say it will take very large draughts of something a great deal stronger than water to get it down most throats, whether Democratic or Republican. [Prolonged laughter.] And he thinks when Horace reads that at Chappa-

qua he too will not only be somewhat surprised, but *smile an unusual smile!* [Laughter.] If H. G., as the editor of the *Tribune* for upwards of twenty years past, has not been a partisan editor, what in heaven's name has he been? [Cries of "Philosopher, Farmer," &c.] What will the old editors of the Charleston *Mercury*, Richmond *Enquirer*, *Journal of Commerce*, and the New York *World*, be called? Such a statement as that might be made by the inmate of an insane asylum, but to be made by a Democratic orator to a Democratic audience, as Paddy would say, "would make a decent horse laugh!" [Laughter.]

And, while I am referring to Mr. Hill's remarkable speech, more remarkable, I beg leave to say, for what it omits to say than what it does say, let me call attention to his remarkable assertion that the Cincinnati Convention had the effect to compel the Administration promptly to pass the disabilities bill or amnesty bill. And, further, that a coalition of the Democracy and Liberal (Greeley) Republicans had prompted the passage of the election or bayonet bill, as he terms it, in the House; also, to defeat the bill authorizing the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in certain cases, &c.

In view of the fact that Mr. Greeley has advocated these two last bills, as I have before shown, and that General Grant has always personally been opposed to them, always advocating amnesty and the removal of disabilities, &c., and that the Liberal or Greeley Republicans, as Mr. Hill would have us believe, defeated these measures in the House, where not a corporal's guard of Greeley Republicans can be found, and I believe not *one can be named in the House of Representatives as a Greeley man* in preference to Grant. I also state that I believe it a fact that not one single Republican but Grant Republicans and Democrats voted on either of these bills.

THE AMNESTY BILL PASSED BY REPUBLICANS.

And as to the amnesty bill especially, it was passed by the resolution and determination (previously agreed upon) by the Republicans in caucus long before the Cincinnati Convention had assembled. Mr. Greeley's

influence in that direction was as barren and ineffectual to accomplish the final result of that vote as it would have been, nay, as it was, to stop the war before it was fought out. [Loud cheers.] Not only that, but Mr. Hill certainly must know General Grant has been in favor of amnesty from Appomattox down to the day and moment he triumphantly and cheerfully signed the bill making it the law of the land. And to attempt to give the credit and honor of that great deed to Horace Greeley or his influence is but a mockery of justice, an endorsement of his most outrageous, yoe, abominable, worse than heathenish, sentiment, uttered in the extract.

GREELEY'S VINDICTIVENESS AND HEARTLESSNESS EXHIBITED.

That the soldiers of the confederate armies, on the return to their friends, whether paroled or not—the rank and file of the rebellion *must find only poverty at their fire-sides and witness but privations of their anxious wives and rags and starvation of their children!* No man North or South, in any country or age, black or white, federal or rebel, bond or free, ever made such a declaration, or could have uttered such language, but he who would sell body and soul to be President, and for “anything to beat Grant,” eat up all the words he had ever spoken in his life. [Continued and loud applause; cries of we won't vote for him.]

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATION REVIEWED.

But I must pass on, and now let me advert to some of the works of General Grant's administration.

1st. The great Republican party in Congress have initiated under his own recommendation a thorough civil service reform, not in words, but in deeds, to be carried out, and it is being carried out in all the Departments of the Government. And this is no Cincinnati chimera, catch-penny, Schurz on a bean-pole affair, [great laughter,] but

a tangible reality to be fully perfected and maintained.

2d. We have an economical Administration, and such an one as the country has not had for many years, and certainly would not have the next four years if Greeley, Tweed, Hoffman, Sands & Co., get to Washington.

On the 4th of March, 1861, when the Republican Administration came into power and assumed the business of this Government, its Treasury was so bankrupted that it had to borrow money to pay its current civil expenditures. Scarcely a dollar was left in the Treasury. The average annual expenditure of Mr. Buchanan's administration exceeded the receipts by \$15,066,275.17 per annum, making a total deficit in four years of \$60,265,109.68. which, added to the amount of cash in the Treasury, on the accession to power of President Buchanan, viz: \$19,842,114.10, made an excess of expenditures over all receipts to the Treasury in a time of profound peace less a balance, March 3, 1861, of \$2,496,035.32—of \$77,621,179.46.

Beside this bankrupt state, it left the country in a state of war which has since further added thousands of millions of dollars to the Government debt, with an untold amount of loss of capital, suffering, and death. Not only was this the legacy to the Republican party, but the credit of the Government was fearfully undermined, for, on the 19th of December, 1860, when the Secretary of the Treasury opened proposals issued on the 14th of December for a \$10,000,000 loan, he found tendered but one-half million dollars, and that at from 12 to 26 per cent. discount for gold. Under Grant's administration Government bonds are again above par, and prosperity points to an abundant Treasury. And in addition to the above, General Grant's administration the past year has cost the country less *per capita* than it did in 1860-61, taking into consideration the increase of population, territory, and the natural increase of public service, both at home and abroad.

The whole expense of Government in 1860-61 was \$61,402,408.64.

The same for 1870-71 amounts to \$68,684,613.92, showing an excess of only \$7,-

\$82,205.28, while the population of 1860 was but 31,443,321, and that of 1870-71 was between 33,000,000 and 40,000,000.

The *per capita* tax for 1860 was \$1.95 per cent.

The *per capita* tax for 1871 is \$1.78 per cent.

Of course the interest of the public debt, the difference between gold and paper currency, the increased pension lists, and sundry other miscellaneous items incurred by reason of war are deducted, but taking the legitimate current expenditures of the Government, we find the present *per capita* tax and expenses are less than in 1860-61.

3d. The collection of the revenue is reduced enormously. In the year 1860-61 the customs collections amounted to \$53,757,511.87, and the cost of collecting under Democratic administration was \$6.25 per cent. In the year 1870-71 the customs collection had nearly quadrupled, being \$206,270,403.05, while the cost of collection under General Grant's Republican administration was but \$3.01 per cent—i. e., less than one-half what it cost ten years ago. [Cries of "you are are right, that's so."]

And not only this, but under Republican administration defaulters and plunderers are punished and sent to prison; and more have been found guilty and punished than under any other Administration since the foundation of the Government, not because there is more rascality now, but because an honest Administration enforces the penalties of the law, and because roguery and dishonesty is at discount, notwithstanding the Democratic thieving in New York. [Cries of "Hurrah for Grant! he is our choice!"]

We have also the knowledge that the percentage of loss on collections, disbursements, and transmissions of revenue, and by defaulters of all classes, has been less under General Grant's administration of three years than any other Administration that ever preceded it. John Tyler says that he knows that under Van Buren's administration there were but 98 receivers of public moneys, and that 96 of those were defaulters.]

4th. While the debt of the nation under Grant's administration has been steadily re-

duced to the amount of \$333,976,916.39 since March 1, 1869, and the interest on the same, at the rate of nearly \$22,401,087 per annum. The internal taxation and custom duties up to January 1, 1872, have been reduced nearly \$250,000,000, and during the session of the Congress which adjourned June 10th last, in a further sum for 1872-3 of between 53 and \$54,000,000. And this contraction of the public debt and reduction of interest continues to go on. Can any Democrat say he hopes or can possibly expect the same favorable state of finances and reduction of debt and interest and taxes under the Radical-Greeley-Liberal-Democratic administration? [Cries of no! no!] I do not think any sane man, North or South, will have the temerity nor the brass to say he believes any such thing.

5th. A simple comparison of the administration of the Treasury Department under President Grant and the Republican party with that of the Democratic-Tammany-Hall, Tweed-Greeley party of New York, when the latter increased the city debt from \$29,324,942.82 in December, 1869, (eight months after President Grant went into power,) to upwards of \$95,000,000 January 1, 1872, establishes the difference between Democratic and Republican honesty, economy, and trustworthiness.

6th. The currency circulating medium and financial steadiness of General Grant's administration stands without a parallel in the history of this Government, and no man questions its soundness and permanency in any part of the land. A dollar note or greenback to-day is as good in Maine as in Georgia, or in Texas as in Minnesota or Massachusetts.

7th. The foreign relations of the Government never were conducted with more ability, discretion, and honor, than at present; and at no time in the past have we had such assurance and guarantee of honorable and harmonious relations in the future with all the Powers of the earth as we have under General Grant. Mr. Sumner's medly turns out, so far, to be only his own, and the people of the South certainly want no more of them, nor him either. [Sensation.]

8th. The management of the Indian af-

airs of the nation, under a new system devised and carried out under the personal supervision of the President, is proving economical, friendly, and eminently successful, and will save the country millions of dollars per annum; and

3th. And lastly, (on this line,) the domestic and internal affairs of the Government and States are constantly improving, and becoming more and more satisfactory; and it is now only for the people to get back to the "old path"—into the right track—regulating their own State matters, doing justice in their own administrations and courts, under the Constitution and laws, as they were wont to do in the olden time, or days before the war, to have peace and restoration to its fullest extent.

Returning again to AFFAIRS IN THE SOUTH, I recall your attention to Mr. Hill's Atlanta speech, wherein in great bitterness he reproaches and denounces the Administration for filling Northern prisons with the best blood of a neighboring State, &c. &c.

I am sorry Mr. Hill is not here face to face to hear what I would say to him on this subject—delicate and unpleasant as it may be—the smallest practical part of which he but faintly alluded to. Nor can he be oblivious to indisputable facts—to notorious truths—that neither he nor any just man can deny. He cannot have forgotten, either, how the distinguished Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, in open court, finding the cases, known as the Ku-Klux cases, he was called upon to defend, were so grossly cruel and revolting to humanity, to civilization, to Christianity, he abandoned their defense and denounced the perpetrators of the crimes charged as unworthy defense: so that these very men, for whom pity and sympathy is now asked and excited, on the advice of their friends, then and there in open court plead guilty to the almost nameless charges against them! What a commentary is this on the rights and wrongs of men, citizens of this country, and that the administration of this great Government, the President of the United States, is to be held responsible for injustice and as depopulating the country and devastating States! The Administration is no more responsible for this matter

than the great star in the highest heavenly host! [Loud cheers.]

Possibly there may be cases of hard-ship—indeed cases of suffering innocence—but how this can have been shown when most of the accused plead guilty, it is difficult to comprehend. But in justice do let the truth be told, though the heavens fall! for it is certain where there is so much sin there must of necessity be fire! [Cries, "That's so!"] Besides, the report of the Congressional committee, both majority and minority report, condemn unanimously most of these very cases. But just or unjust, no one wishes wrong perpetuated:—

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
While error wounded whines in pain,
And lies amid her worshippers."

[Loud cheers.]

THE DUTY OF THE DEMOCRAT TO PROTECT AND DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

The rightful powers of this Government cannot be doubted. Ready to protect and defend the rights of citizens of its boundless wards cannot be questioned. [Cheers.] And that it is a Government, as officially expressed by the immortal Lincoln, "of the people, by the people, and for the people," will no longer be denied. It is an admitted fact, too, that we have a Central Government and State governments, and that while in a measure independent of each other, still they intermesh, and who have him a wheel for the good of all—the good of good of the greatest number, for the benefit, for protection of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, of all the people, irrespective of latitude or longitude, in this great nation or previous condition.

A FEW OF GREELEY'S COLLABORERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

Without taxing patience too long, I will here call your attention to that of our Democratic friend, particularly to another Greeleyism, which possibly may prove hard pills for them to swallow, in addition to the author of them, but which they must swallow if they vote for Greeley. Speaking of the New York election of 1853, October 13, 1860, Mr. G. said:

"The vote of our State was stolen from Gen. Grant by the foulest, most audacious conspiracy and gigantic fraud. She is far more decidedly Republican than Pennsylvania is, or ever was; she was carried for Seymour and Hoffman by crimes that ought to fill fifty State prisons to overflowing." [Laughter.]

And again, on October 11, 1870, he said:

"The one thing a Tammany Democrat cannot abide is an honest election. The Ring makes no attempt to conceal its determination that repeating shall not be stopped, even if that dearest privilege of the party have to be defended with the slug-shot and iron dog."

And again Greeley said in 1871:

"The brain, the heart, the soul of the present Democratic party is the rebel element at the South. It is rebel at the core to-day. It would come into power with the hate, the chagrin, the wrath, the mortification of ten bitter years to impel and guide its steps. Whatever chastisements may be deserved by our national sins, we must hope that this disgrace and humiliation will be spared us," &c. [Loud cheers.]

I have already called your attention to what Mr. Greeley has said of Gen. Grant's fitness for his first and second term nominations. And, by the way, he was one of the first, if not the first, to nominate Grant for a *second term*, before he found he could not use and control him for his own personal ends, although his Cincinnati platform has a "one-term" plank in it, on the ground, probably, that one-term of Greeley would be enough for the country and people, and doubtless it would. [Applause.]

WHAT THE NEW YORK WORLD SAID OF GENERAL GRANT.

I ask your attention now to what the New York *World* said of General Grant's fitness for President:

"Apply to Gen. Grant what test you will; measure him by the magnitude of the obstacles he has surrounded, by the value of the positions he has gained, by the fame of the antagonist over whom he has triumphed, by the achievements of his most illustrious co-workers, by the sureness with which he directs his indomitable energy to the vital point which is the key of a vast field of operations, or by that supreme test of consummate ability, the absolute completeness of his results, and he vindicates his claim to

stand next after Napoleon and Wellington among the great soldiers of this country, if not on a level with the latter."

And again:

"Of the steadfastness and staunchness of Gen. Grant's patriotism, or the uprightness and solidity of his character, no man in the country doubts or affects to doubt.

"On the score of loyalty and solid public services, no man in the country can come in competition with this illustrious soldier.

"The Presidency can be nothing to him; he has a more valuable office. But if, in the hands of Providence, he could be an instrument for tranquilizing the country, that is an honor for which he could afford to sacrifice ease, congenial pursuits, and the possibility of still greater fame as a soldier."

This was spoken in 1868, and though the *World* has since changed, Grant has not changed but for the better, both in experience and ripened statesmanship. [Loud cheers.]

WHAT GEN. FRANK BLAIR SAID OF GEN. GRANT.

One other testimony, that of Gen. Frank P. Blair, of Missouri, Greeley and Brown's right-hand man, and I close. When Blair was making a speech in Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1868, some wise Democrat called out in reply to Blair's criticism, "Grant is a fool." Mr. Blair immediately turned upon him with all his animation, sharpness, and usual expletive language, said:

"Sir, you are mistaken. Grant is no fool! I know him well. I knew him before he went into the army, and when he used to haul wood into the city of St. Louis. I met him often in the service. I know the man. He is, by—, the greatest man of the age. Sherman, Sheridan, and Thomas are good men, but Grant is worth more than all of them. [Great cheering and laughter.]

"Oliver Cromwell and Napoleon Bonaparte were both great men, but, sir, I tell you that Grant is a greater man than Cromwell and Bonaparte put together. He is not a talker, but he is one of the deepest thinkers in the world.

"Yes, but don't you think he will be controlled by such men as Sumner, Wilson, and Washburne?"

"Controlled! Controlled! Why, by G—, he would sweep them away like a straw."

"But, General, don't you think that circumstances have done a great deal for Grant?"

"Why, h—ll, the fellow has made the circumstances. I tell you that it is no luck?"

"The man that can spring right up from poverty and obscurity, and do what he has done, is no mere creature of circumstances. Circumstances don't run so much in one way."

"I am a Democrat, but if General Grant is such a great man as you say he is, I am a Grant man from this out." [Cheers.]

"Well, if you want a despotism, vote for him: but if you want a Republican form of government, you will have to vote against him. I know that he is a great man, and, by G—d, in saying so, I simply tell the truth." [Prolonged cheering.]

With all these testimonials, this knowledge of our standard-bearers, let us, from this time forth, be up and doing. Aye, from now until November's triumph, which surely awaits us, move on the columns! March on, March on!

General Grant and Henry Wilson are honest, tried and true, and under the proud banner, our red, white, and blue, we will go on conquering and to conquer. The very elements all conspire to this, and the shouts of freemen proclaim it everywhere. Yes, with HENRY WILSON, *the friend of labor, the friend of man, the friend of right against might everywhere*, even when might seemed to make right—the self-made statesman and scholar, whose record and fame is as broad as the land is wide—indefatigable, unflinching to duty—judicious, discreet, good, and true in every tried position, as Vice President, with General Grant as President, the country will have the assurance doubly sure, that their Administration will be honored, useful, respected, and the integrity of the country be maintained against every foe. In the Senate, on the stump, on the bench, (shoemaker's if you please!) no man stands higher, purer, more honored. And he is strictly a representative man—East, North, South, and West—having enlarged public views and no narrow sectional, contracted, or partisan prejudices or animosities to avenge. His heart, too, is ever opened to sympathy and a world's charity, while his mind is as clear and unclouded as his own New England mountain air is pure and healthful. In whatever position placed, he has always been found faithful, untiring, genial—and he will be emphatically, one other right man in the

right place. [Cries, that's so.] He comprehends the wants and necessities of the laboring classes and interests of the South, as well as of the North, as perhaps few Northern men do; and our people here, all of you, always know where to find Henry Wilson. He is no weather-cock, nor traducer, nor falsifier of his own record, but will be, as an auxiliary, counselor, and second to the President, without a superior in all the land. Prolonged applause.]

CONCLUSION.

And now with such men as candidates for the high offices of President and Vice President, with such principles, ability, and honors clinging to and clustering round them, and such a platform as that of the Philadelphia Republican National Convention to stand upon, there can be but one response in November next, and that will be "see the conquering heroes—Grant and Wilson—come." [Applause.] That they will be triumphantly elected the ides of November will show, and with such a majority as never before was given to a President and Vice President of the United States. [Cheers.]

And then will all our country be freer, better, stronger than ever before. And we shall see a prosperity, advancement, development in arts, in sciences, in knowledge, in legislation, in agriculture, in mechanics, in internal navigation and commerce, in education, in morals, in material wealth, and in all that contributes to make a great and free nation flourish and prosper as at no time in the past. With such hope, inspiration, promise, rightful expectation of the future before us—

Our country! who would not love it?
Who, not uphold it, bravely, e'en with tears
And blood, and life's last ebbing flood?
Aye, no foe shall crush thee, no loud roar
Of battle
Bend thee nor break thee while freemen
live!
Yea, thy sons and daughters too will fall
In heaps around their altars and their fires,
Beside the green graves of their sires,
But not our country fall!
God bless and keep our native land?

[Long and continuous cheers.]

GRANT'S AMNESTY RECORD.

A fitting appendix to the foregoing able argument is found in the following extracts, showing the kindly interest taken in the vanquished confederates, and his course in advocating amnesty. At the memorable surrender at Appomattox Court House, one writer says:

"After the signatures were attached (to the terms of the surrender) Lee said that he had forgotten one thing. Many cavalry and artillery horses in his army belonged to the men in charge of them; but of course it was too late to speak of that now."

"Grant (interrupting)—I will instruct my paroling officers that all the enlisted men of your cavalry and artillery who own horses are to retain them just as the officers do theirs. They will need them for their spring plowing and other farm work."

"Lee (with great earnestness)—General, there is nothing you could have done to accomplish more good either for them or the Government."

FIRST WORD FOR AMNESTY.

How General Grant's heart longed for reconciliation and peace between the sections, and how ready he always was to stand between the extremists of the North and the disheartened people of the South, and say to the former, be magnanimous, and to the latter, take courage, is manifest upon every proper occasion. During the excitement which swept the North at the assassination of Lincoln, General Grant, in a letter to General Halleck, made the first great plea for amnesty, and thus set the example for others at the North, who, like Mr. Greeley, have since—as his enemies—claimed the parentage of that forgiving and fraternal movement. He said: "although it would meet with opposition in the North to allow Lee the benefit of amnesty, I think it would have the best possible effect toward restoring good feeling and peace in the South to have him come in. All the people, except a few political leaders in the South, will accept whatever he does as right, and will be guided to a great extent by his example."

GENERAL LEE INDICTED.

General Lee being afterwards (June, 1865,) indicted for treason by a Virginia

grand jury, General Grant interceded for him, urging as follows: "In my opinion the officers and men paroled at Appomattox Court House and since, upon the same terms given to Lee, cannot be tried for treason so long as they observe the terms of their parole. This is my understanding. Good faith as well as true policy dictate that we should observe the conditions of that convention." On this point he sometime later, in an examination before the Judiciary Committee of Congress, revealed the ceaseless activity with which he had plead for charity and forgiveness, while Andrew Johnson was HOWLING AND RAGING FOR VENGEANCE upon Lee and the Confederate leaders. The official report furnishes these extracts. Eldridge (Democratic member of the committee)—"Have you had interviews with the President about granting amnesty and pardon to rebel officers and people?" Grant—"I have occasionally recommended a person for amnesty. I thought there was no reason why, because a person had risen to the rank of general, he should be excluded from amnesty any more than one who had failed to reach that rank. * * * I don't see any reason why the volunteer who happened to rise to the rank of general should be excluded any more than a colonel." * * * I frequently had to intercede for General Lee and other paroled officers on the ground that their parole protected them from arrest and trial. The President at that time occupied exactly the reverse grounds, viz: that they should be tried and punished. He wanted to know when the time would come that they should be punished. I told him not so long as they obeyed the law and complied with the stipulation."

THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.

Upon this point it will be interesting to observe what some of the able men who have never acted with the Republican party have to say in comparing the magnanimity of Grant and Greeley. We first give an extract from a speech of Hon. Mr. Voorhees, the great Democrat of Indiana:

"Sir: It is sometimes said, and I regret to hear it, that this nominee (Mr. Greeley) went bail for Jefferson Davis. It is to be re-

row a platform for a Presidential campaign. [Laughter.] It is a most dangerous appeal, a most mischievous issue to raise between the man who put Mr. Davis in jail and the man who bailed him out. It would not be a prudent issue, and, as a friend of the Southern people, I implore them not to make it. It will arouse a feeling which is rapidly passing away, for the soldier element of the North is magnanimous, just, and good. It will, in other respects, provoke a comparison not favorable to the nominee of the Cincinnati Convention. A hundred millions of property stood ready to bail Mr. Davis. He was not helpless; he did not need support; the whole South would have bailed their own prisoner. But there was a time when Andrew Johnson and his administration, especially guided by his Secretary of War, desired to arrest Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston, and other prominent leaders of the South. But one man could prevent it. That man is now the Chief Executive of this nation. General Grant at that time stepped forward and told the authorities that he had taken the paroles of these distinguished Confederates as soldiers, and those paroles should be respected. [Applause.] * * * I fear, Mr. Speaker, that if I should take the stump and press the claims of Mr. Greeley, I should find a candidate opposing him who had done more and kinder things for the South than he had."

Governor Wise, the indomitable defender of the South, presents the case this way in a letter to Col. Mosby: "Was Greeley serviceably benevolent in going bail for President Davis? Grant was far more manly in giving us honorable capitulation at Appomattox to go home with the honors of war, and, so long as we obeyed the laws, there to remain unmolested in all respects whatsoever."

HE URGED AMNESTY ALL THE TIME IN HIS MESSAGES.

In his messages he has throughout emphasized the question of amnesty, appealing to his friends in Congress and to the Northern people in the strongest and most direct language, to hasten the bestowal of that cherished boon upon the late Confederates; and to his persistent efforts in private and public council is to be credited the final passage of the general amnesty law at the last session of Congress. Read his appeal in his last message, observing as you will, that it is in spirit and substance the same generous argument which he advanced upon a former

the surrender, when others were demanding trials for treason, and punishment in chains or upon the scaffold.

"More than six years having elapsed since the last hostile gun was fired between the armies then arrayed against each other—one for the perpetuation, the other for the destruction, of the Union—it may be well considered whether it is not now time that the disabilities imposed by the fourteenth amendment should be removed. That amendment does not exclude the ballot, but only imposes the disability to hold offices upon certain classes.

"I do not see the advantage or propriety of excluding men from office merely because they were, before the rebellion, of standing and character sufficient to be elected to positions requiring them to take oaths to support the Constitution, and admitting to eligibility those entertaining precisely the same views but of less standing in their communities. It may be said that the former violated an oath, while the latter did not. The latter did not have it in their power to do so. If they had taken this oath it cannot be doubted they would have broken it as did the former class.

AN APPEAL FOR VIRGINIA.

The Old Dominion, the mother of Presidents, was one of the first States to receive President Grant's assistance. In the very first month of his administration he urged upon Congress her claims in a special message; and in the election which took place in 1869, on the adoption of the test-oath clause in the State constitution, he allowed a separate vote.

THE TEST-OATH.

When the military Governor proposed to apply the test-oath to the members of the State Legislature thus elected, the President prevented him, and on the reassembling of Congress in the fall, the State officers, by his urgent recommendations, were recognized, and its national Representatives were admitted to their seats; and in no way since has he interfered with the sovereign rights of Virginia. A similar policy was likewise pursued towards Texas and Mississippi.

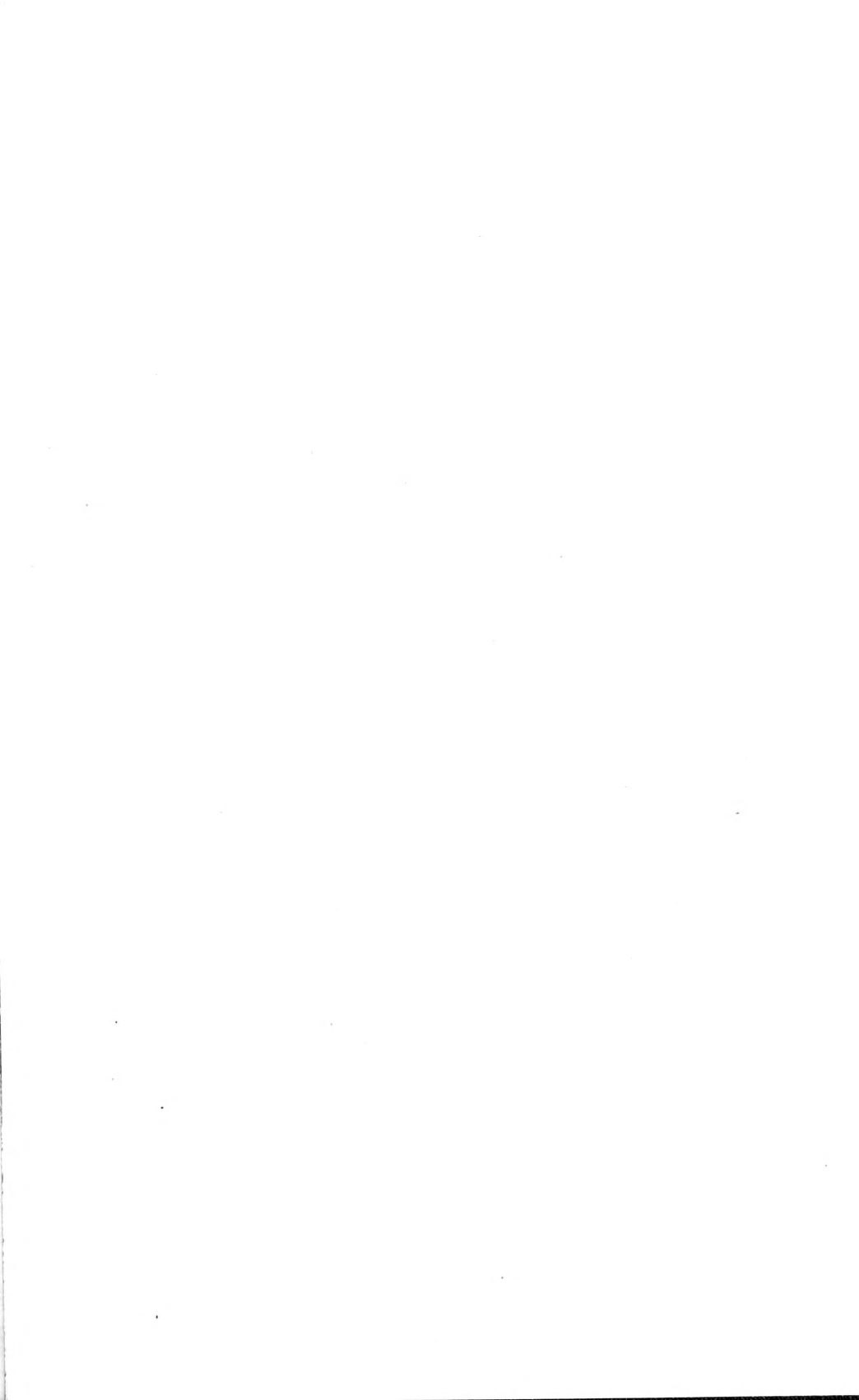
From the beginning of his career at Belmont to his brilliant descent Appomattox there is not an act of cruel or ungenerous policy charged against him. He has been a man of peace and mercy.

dices of to-day, when he reviews the career of General Grant, will hesitate whether to give pre-eminence to his skill as a soldier, or his magnanimity as a man.

With the surrender of Lee he sheathed his sword, buried the animosities of war, and labored as earnestly to restore peace and prosperity to the South as he had to preserve the integrity of the nation. He has been a consistent peace-maker, and since his accession to the Presidency, has done all in his power to promote the best interests of the country, by maintaining peace, not only within our own borders, but with all nations of the earth. His chief object has been to restore the Republic to its original unity of purpose, securing to each State a republican form of government, wherein the few shall not oppress the many, or the majority disregard the rights and privileges of the minority. Under his wise policy the South is beginning to recover its former prosperity. Business which has been pros-

trated since the war is reviving, and old prejudices, engendered by four years of strife, and kept alive by designing politicians, are gradually dying out. Northern capital is turning southward in search of investments. Railroads are being built to develop the resources of the Gulf States, and to bring their chief cities in closer and more friendly communication with the great commercial centres of the country. Demagogues may endeavor to blind the people to the true state of affairs by charging President Grant with a design to cripple the South: but citizens who do their own thinking cannot be imposed upon by these unscrupulous enemies of law and order. Fair-minded men, whether they agree politically with President Grant or not, accord to him honesty of purpose, and believe that he has done the very best that could be done under the circumstances to secure to the South the full enjoyment of its constitutional rights.





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